

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

1st February 2022

Report in Response to the Proposals in relation to the Precept in the Police and Crime Commissioner's Budget 2022-23

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Executive Summary

This report sets out the Police and Crime Panel's response to the latest financial position for the Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire, specifically in relation to the proposals for the precept for 2022/23.

Introduction

The Police and Crime Commissioner ('the Commissioner') has a statutory duty to set an annual Police and Crime budget and, as part of that process, to consult with the Police and Crime Panel regarding any proposals in relation to the council tax precept.

At the meeting of the Crime and Police Panel on the 1st February 2022, at item 3, a report from the Commissioner set out the latest financial position for the Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire for 2022/23 and the proposals in relation to the Council Tax precept. This report can be viewed on the following link:

[Agenda for Police & Crime Panel for Lancashire on Tuesday, 1st February, 2022, 6.00 pm \(blackburn.gov.uk\)](#)

The report identifies the current provisional funding position for 2022/23. It also identifies the cost pressures that have emerged, savings required, and investment needed for policing in Lancashire. In particular, the report also sets out:

- The draft revenue budget for 2022/23
- The council tax proposal for 2022/23, and
- The draft capital investment programme

In addition, the report sets out the advice of the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the level of reserves as required by section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The impact of the proposals for the 2022/23 budget are identified in an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) also set out in the report.

The report refers to the Government announcement on 16 December 2021 for the Provisional Police Grant Settlement. Lancashire has been allocated police grant of £230.767m, including funding for the costs arising due to the recruitment of an additional 204 officers as part of the national 'uplift' programme.

The Commissioner outlined cost pressures of £10M, and savings of £7M had to be offset across the Constabulary. Referring to the assumption that Council Tax base in Lancashire will increase by 1% in 2022/23, it was therefore proposed to increase the Council Tax precept by £10 for a Band D property in 2022/23.

Role of the Police and Crime Panel

Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Commissioner to notify the Police and Crime Panel, by 1st February 2022, of his proposed precept for the financial year.

Under Schedule 5 of the Act, Police and Crime Panels must review the proposed precept notified to it and must make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept. The report may include recommendations, including recommendations as to the precept that should be issued for the financial year.

The Police and Crime Panel has the power to veto the proposed precept if at least two-thirds of the persons who are members of the panel at the time when the decision is made vote in favour of making that decision. If the panel vetoes the proposed precept, the report made to the Commissioner must include a statement that the panel has vetoed it.

The Police and Crime Panel's response to the Commissioner on the precept proposal must be made by 8th February 2022. A Commissioner is unable to set a precept until the end of the scrutiny process is reached and should the Police and Crime Panel veto the proposals, the Commissioner must submit a revised precept for consideration of the panel to which the Police and Crime Panel must also respond. A further response from the Police and Crime Panel must be received by 22nd February 2022 after which the Commissioner must respond formally to the Police and Crime Panel setting out the precept for the forthcoming year.

At the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 1 February 2022, the Panel did not veto the Commissioner's precept proposal.

Recommendations

The recommendations which the Police and Crime Panel were asked to consider were as follows:

- Note the details of the 2022/23 provisional police finance settlement, cost pressures and investments and the impact on Lancashire's budget.
- Consider the Commissioner's proposal to increase the council tax precept by £10 (4.42%) for a Band D property in 2022/23.
- Make arrangements to ensure that a formal written response to the proposals is sent to the Commissioner by 8th February 2022.
- Note the draft capital investment programme for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27.
- Note the position of the Commissioner's reserves in 2022/23 and future years.

Decision

Following questions put to the Commissioner by the Panel and responses provided, the above recommendations were noted and the proposal to increase the Council Tax precept by £10 for a Band D property in 2022/23 was approved.

Furthermore the panel agreed to submit this formal written response to the proposals by the 8th February 2022.

The minutes of the meeting when available can be located on the Blackburn with Darwen Council website (see link below):

[Browse meetings - Police & Crime Panel for Lancashire \(blackburn.gov.uk\)](https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/BlackburnwithDarwen/About/Meetings/Pages/Police%20&%20Crime%20Panel%20for%20Lancashire.aspx)